

PLOCKTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023 IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Peter Mackenzie (PM), Martin Bliss (MB), Alex Fergusson (AF), Ewen Cameron (EC), Fiona Mackenzie (FM), Mary Gollan (MG)

Alex Townend (AT), Morag Mackenzie (MM), Michael Hay (MH), Morven Mackay (MM), Jean Greer (JG), James Greer (JG)

Apologies:

Ian Hay (IH), Councillor Biz Campbell (BC)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were approved and seconded as a true and accurate account.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

There had been no movement of money on any of the accounts except for an annual payment for web hosting services.

3. MATTER ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

PM reported that the 5 defibrillators were all now fully functional.

4. COMMUNITY BUS

MG reported that the community bus, supplied by Kyle Community Trust, had started a shopping run every Monday from Plockton to Kyle. There had been moderate uptake of the service and it was hoped that more people would use it when it became more widely known. It is available for people to be picked up from home in outlying areas, not just Plockton. At present, it is on a Monday but this day may change.

5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PM reported that plans for the development of the janitor's house at the school should be ready by the end of March.

6. A890 ROAD UPDATE

It was agreed by the meeting to support HC's bid to have this road adopted as a trunk road.

7. PLANNING

Gordon Mackenzie had submitted an application to raise the roof of the old laundry to provide holiday accommodation. The meeting had no objections to this proposal.

## 8. PARKING UPDATE

- a. PM reported that Shane Manning, HC, had provided figures for the income generated by the installation of the 'invitation to pay' parking meter in the main car park. £13,052 had been collected from 01.04.22 until 31.01.23. Costs were £9,595 which meant that there was a 'profit' of £4,797. The figures appear to show that it costs £290/month to run the meters. There was a charge of £562 for 'transaction costs (credit cards)'. How much of the profit would come directly to Plockton was unknown and PM was sceptical that we would be able to get a further breakdown of the costs incurred. BC was thanked for pushing for the release of these figures. BC was asked to check if the one off charge for installation of the meter was included in the figure of £9595. It remains a big concern as to the continued operation of the toilets in the car park as they had seen a significant downturn in voluntary donations since the parking meter was introduced.
- b. HC has promised to remove the yellow lines along Harbour Street.
- c. Coral Beach Parking. The area will require full statutory consultation before HC can implement any changes. BC was again thanked for her support in this matter.

## 9. PATHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

- a. PM reported that Mark Crowe, HC, had visited Plockton in January. He confirmed that the causeway is a core path and therefore HC were obliged to maintain it. He stated that there was grant funding available from various sources to fund this and other work and the community council would support him in his efforts to secure funding. MC is also looking to establish the steps from the brae at 27 Harbour Street as a right of way.
- b. There is an ongoing dispute over the right of way from Duncraig Castle to the stone slipway which is now blocked by a locked gate. **HC has requested the help of the community in ascertaining historical evidence that this has been a right of way.**
- c. The wooden footbridge over the Duirinish burn is beginning to show signs of wear and as a right of way, this too would require action by HC.

## 10. NTS

The NTS had recently had a meeting explaining their 'vision for the management of Balmacara estate. There is a further meeting on Wednesday 15 February and the CC will send a representative.

## 11. AOB

- a. Fencing at School and Ceann an Uib. Dorothy Gibb, Estates HC, had visited with AT and had agreed to reinstate the broken fencing. Keith Mackenzie, Principal Repair Officer HC, had issued a work order for repairs. BC was once again thanked for her input on this matter.
- b. Closure of Mo Dhachaidh Nursing Home. An email has been received by CC from the Loch Broom CC asking for support in their appeal to HC to prevent closure of this important facility. The CC fully supports them and PM will write.
- c. Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh (Ward 5) Roads. There is a zoom meeting on 27 March 2023 from 7-9pm to discuss any and all matters relating to roads. The meeting agreed that the main points to highlight locally were the general state of the roads with potholes and the corner at Drumbuie which is becoming increasingly narrow and dangerous.
- d. King's Coronation. The CC had been informed that there is grant funding available if they wish to hold a celebration but the meeting unanimously agreed that they would not pursue this. The application for funding is also available to individuals should they so wish.

- e. Fireworks. Volunteers need to be trained, as the licence requires it. At the moment there are only 2 trained members of the community. It was agreed to contact 4 others with a view to being trained. The CC would pay for this.
- f. Septic Tank at Rhu. PM had written on 24.11.22 but no reply and no planning application had been submitted which was disappointing. The meeting agreed to contact SEPA again to try to resolve this matter which has been ongoing for more than 8 years.
- g. The 2 new grit bins at Achnadarach are now in place.
- h. FM highlighted the recent planning refusal received by Mr & Mrs Alasdair Hendry at 15 Bank Street. AF (Mrs Hendry) was reminded by the Chair (PM), of her conflict of interest and took no part in the discussion. The meeting agreed that the grounds for refusal appeared very subjective especially in light of some recent building work being undertaken. It was felt that a young family, with children in the school, are a huge asset to the village and in all circumstances every effort to encourage them to stay must be pursued.

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next community council meeting will be held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 7.30pm in PVH.